

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Dyer Lecturer Probes Persistence Of Cellular Memory

By Anne A. Oplinger

Cellular memory, one of the immune system's most astounding characteristics, is the subject of the 50th R.E. Dyer lecture scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 19. The



Dr. Rafi Ahmed

lecture, "Immunological Memory: Lessons for Vaccine Development," will be presented by Dr. Rafi Ahmed at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Anyone who has had chicken pox, mumps, measles or certain other

childhood diseases will never have that disease again, thanks to the remarkable ability of the immune system to "remem-

SEE DYER LECTURE, PAGE 2

American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month Marked

The NIH American Indian/Alaska Native Employee Council (AIANEC) sponsored the first campus observance of American



Brian Hammil (Ho-Chunk) in his role as Eagle Dancer, accompanied by musician Albert "Moontee" Sinqub

Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month on Nov. 16. Many institutes and the Indian Health Service collaborated to develop the program.

It began with an invocation by Clayton Old

Elk, a Crow tribal member from Montana

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health

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Post-Sept. 11 Strategies Debated

Current, Future Security Measures Weighed at Town Meeting

By Carla Garnett

The adage "you can never please everyone" might well have been written to describe reaction to heightened security measures taken and planned for NIH following the Sept. 11 tragedy. That's according to an unofficial barometer of employee remarks Nov. 19 at the first of four scheduled town meetings on "Safety and Security at the NIH." There was perhaps only one thing everyone could agree on: That is, NIH now conducts business differently than it did before Sept. 11.

"This is an opportunity to fill you in on what's going on, the rationale for what's happening and to hear your ideas," said Dr. Michael Gottesman, NIH deputy director for intramural research, during opening remarks at the meeting held in Masur Auditorium.

Acknowledging that many employees have asked him what they can do to help NIH and the nation at a time like this, Gottesman told the audience, "What we do here already is of incredible importance to the country. In many ways, the most important job is to do the job that we've been doing from the beginning of the establishment of NIH. When the NIH was first established,

SEE CAMPUS SECURITY, PAGE 6

Leasure Is New Deputy Director for Management

By Rich McManus

The two biggest jobs facing new NIH Deputy Director for Management Charles E. "Chick" Leasure Jr., who took over the post in early October from Tony Itteilag, are Restructuring, a department-wide mandate to keep all HHS operating divisions consistent with the secretary's leadership, and restructuring, which involves unpacking crates and settling into his new Bldg. 1 office after 36 years in a variety of executive positions throughout NIH.

But first a word about his nickname: "It's a southern name," he explains. "My mother was born in Arkansas and raised in Virginia. She told me, 'You were too small to be called Charles.' I used to say that I'd change my name to some-



Charles E. "Chick" Leasure Jr.

SEE CHICK LEASURE, PAGE 8

'Muncher' Makes Meal of Bldg. 35, Makes Way for NRC

Demolition of Bldg. 35, undertaken to make way for construction of the John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center, began on Sept. 5, and by late November had resulted in complete leveling of the structure by a concrete "muncher" machine. The "jaws" of the muncher can be seen against the late fall sky in the photo at right.

In the photos below, the building skeleton appears as it was in late October, after asbestos and lead had been carefully removed, along with steel, copper wiring and tubing and concrete, which were recycled.

The new NRC (model shown at bottom) will be built mostly of glass, and will feature an atrium visible in the center of the photo.

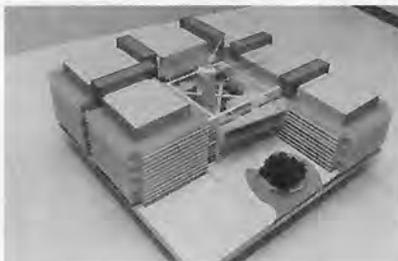
Bldg. 35 used to host a cafeteria, preschool program, and, in its basement, some squash courts, among other facilities. The muncher bit it into small chunks of concrete, then shook the pieces until they pulverized. In the photos (below, r) the well-chewed remains of Bldg. 35 make it look more like war-torn Kandahar than the NIH campus. Eventually, Bldg. 36, from whose roof the bottom two photos at right were taken, will also be razed to make way for the 560,000-gross-square-foot NRC.



Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Rafi Ahmed on Dec. 19 (see Dyer Lecture story on p. 1). This is the final WALs talk for the fall; the series resumes with a special Tuesday session in Masur at 3 p.m. on Jan. 8 when Dr. Adriano Aguzzi speaks on "Immunobiology of Prion Diseases." He is professor and director, Institute of Neuropathology and associate dean for research, University of Zurich Medical School.

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine, 594-5595.



PHOTOS: RICH MCMANUS

DYER LECTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ber" the initial encounter with the organisms that cause these diseases and to mount a swift counter-offensive if the same invader is met again. Happily, getting sick is not the only way to acquire such long-term immunity. Vaccines give the immune system a virtual experience of illness—enough to evoke cell memory, but not enough to cause the actual disease.

Ahmed, director of Emory Vaccine Center at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, is a leading expert on how T lymphocytes (a kind of immune system cell) develop memory following virus infection or vaccination. His research focuses on the precise cellular and molecular events that differentiate an activated T cell from a naïve one. Once primed by exposure to a disease, memory T cells acquire a kind of "hair-trigger" that helps them react very quickly and forcefully should the need arise. "If we understand how immune memory is generated and sustained, we should be able to develop better vaccines," notes Ahmed.

A vaccine's ability to confer long-term immunity to disease is one of its most important characteristics. For example, many Americans are currently wondering if the smallpox vaccine they received 30 or more years ago would still protect them if they encountered the disease today. Although he will not present data pertaining specifically to smallpox, Ahmed's lecture will address the key question of long-term immunity.

A native of India, he earned his undergraduate degree from Osmania University, India, and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. Following postdoctoral training at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in La Jolla, he joined the department of microbiology and immunology at UCLA School of Medicine. He was at UCLA until 1995, when he moved to Emory University School of Medicine. At Emory, he is the Georgia Research Alliance eminent scholar in vaccine research and professor of microbiology and immunology. He has served on numerous scientific advisory boards, including that of the Ministry of Science in India. He was elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1999. He has published more than 140 articles and reviews and is currently principal investigator on two NIAID grants.

The Dyer lecture was established to honor Dr. Rolla Dyer upon his retirement as NIH director in 1950. An expert in infectious diseases, he demonstrated how endemic typhus is spread and helped develop a vaccine to protect against the disease. He served as director of research at Emory University until 1957, and died in 1971.

All are invited to join Ahmed for light refreshments following the lecture. For more information and reasonable accommodation, contact Hilda Madine at 594-5595. ■

NIDCR's Dr. Caswell Evans recently received the Surgeon General's Medallion, the highest honor bestowed by the Surgeon General.



Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher presented the medallion to Evans at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, held this year in Atlanta. Evans won the medal for his "outstanding efforts in

promotion of the health of the public as executive editor for Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General." The document was the first-ever Surgeon General's Report on oral health.

Conference on Lupus, Jan. 10-12

A scientific conference titled "SLE: Targets for New Therapeutics," will be held Jan. 10-12, 2002 at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda. The purpose is to facilitate the exchange and integration of scientific information between scientists working in disparate areas relating to systemic lupus erythematosus, and to identify novel strategies for clinical intervention.

For registration information call (202) 973-8680 or visit <http://www.niams.nih.gov/ne/mcw/index.htm>. Sponsors include the S.L.E. Foundation, Inc. and NIAHS. ■

N I H R E C O R D

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Patients with Bipolar Disorder Needed

The Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program at NIMH is conducting a study to examine the effectiveness of pramipexole (Mirapex) in the depressive phase of bipolar disorder. This is an 8-week study of medication or placebo that will be added on to current treatment of lithium or valproate. Patients should be ages 18-60, have a diagnosis of bipolar disorder and be currently depressed, and be currently taking lithium or valproate for mood stabilization. The study includes medical and psychiatric evaluations and a treatment optimization phase at no cost. The study is conducted at the Clinical Center. For more information call 496-5645.

NCI Reports on Nation's Progress Against Cancer

The National Cancer Institute has released *Cancer Progress Report 2001*, the first in a new series of reports designed to make scientific information on cancer more accessible and understandable. The report, released Dec. 4 at a meeting of the National Cancer Advisory Board, succinctly describes and illustrates the nation's progress in reducing the cancer burden across the full cancer continuum, from prevention through the impact of deaths from cancer.

"Overall, Cancer Progress Report 2001 paints a positive picture," said Barbara Rimer, director of NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. "Highlighting important cancer control indicators, the report shows how the rates of both new cancers and cancer deaths are falling overall, due to factors such as the growing adoption of state-of-the-art cancer treatments, reduced cigarette smoking by adults and increased screenings for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers. Both smoking and getting screened for cancer are related to behaviors over which individuals have control."

But the report also illustrates where the nation is not making progress or is losing ground, Rimer said. For example, greater efforts are needed to reduce tobacco use, especially among youth where there appears to be a recent promising decline in cigarette smoking. Rising rates of some cancers, such as esophageal cancer and melanoma skin cancer, must be addressed. Other areas that need attention include increased overweight and obesity, inadequate protection of the skin from sunlight, and unexplained cancer-related health disparities between some population subgroups in the U.S. population.

"The Cancer Progress Report is an effort to publish, in one place, the most up-to-date information on the nation's progress against cancer," said Dr. Robert Hiatt, DCCPS deputy director and chair of NCI's Cancer Progress Report working group.

The report presents measures of progress based on scientific evidence that is, in most cases, the product of long-term national data collection and analysis efforts by NCI, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, other federal agencies, professional groups and cancer researchers.

Hiatt said the measures are organized along the cancer continuum in the areas of prevention (behavioral and environmental), early detection, diagnosis, life after cancer and end of life. Treatment measures are not included in the report because few have been tracked at a national level. "The report describes ongoing research activities that will lead to evidence-based treatment measures, which will appear in future editions of the report," he said.

Hiatt said that where possible, the report compares the most recent estimates with the cancer-

related targets of Healthy People 2010, a comprehensive set of 10-year objectives for the nation, sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services. Special color-coded graphics in the "Highlights" summary section show whether each trend is going in the desired direction and how the nation's progress compares to the Healthy People 2010 targets.

"Cancer Progress Report 2001 tells the nation where we are now and identifies research, policy and practice gaps that can help us plan for the future," said Hiatt. "The public can use the report to better understand the nature of cancer and the results of strategies to fight it. Policymakers can review past efforts and plan future ones; and researchers, clinicians and public health providers can focus on the gaps and opportunities identified to pave the way to future progress against cancer."

The report resulted from recommendations by NCI's cancer control program review group and surveillance implementation group to develop a national progress report on the cancer burden. Free copies may be ordered by calling 1-800-4-CANCER; to view the online version visit <http://progressreport.cancer.gov>. The web version will be updated every 6 to 12 months, and the print version will be revised and published every 2 years. ■

Annual King Program Scheduled, Jan. 14

Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) will be the keynote speaker for the annual NIH Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance on Monday, Jan. 14 at 12:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The theme of the observance will be "Unity in Diversity: We Shall Overcome." The UMBC Gospel Choir will perform.

Hrabowski serves as a consultant to NIH, the National Science Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Department of Education. A leader in the civil rights movement, he was prominently featured in Spike Lee's 1997 documentary, *Four Little Girls*. UMBC has received numerous awards, including the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring, in recognition of its nationally acclaimed, multimillion dollar Meyerhoff Scholars Program for gifted African American undergraduates in science and engineering. More information on the 2002 King observance will follow in the next issue of the *NIH Record*. Program contacts include Levon Parker of NINDS, 496-5332 and Kay Johnson Graham of NINR, 402-5790.

Workers Wanted for Web Use Study

The NIH Office of Communications and Public Liaison is looking for help from employees to evaluate the NIH web site. NIH's first usability study will measure satisfaction with the "Information for Employees" page. There is opportunity for compensation. Details will be made available to employees who email meadk@od.nih.gov with the words "Web Evaluation" in the subject of the message. ■

NATIVE AMERICANS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and an IHS employee who explained that as a "town crier," he is responsible for praising the participants of such a gathering and thanking NIH for hosting the event.

The theme was "Leading the Way to Good Medicine." A variety of speakers presented information, including how American Indians may first have arrived in what eventually became the United States.

Among the lecturers was Dr. Jared Jobe, a member of the Cherokee Nation who works at NHLBI; Dr. Clifton Poodry, a member of the Seneca Nation, who works at NIGMS; Leo Nolan, a member of the St. Regis (Akwasasne) Mohawk tribe, from IHS; and Dr. Everett Rhoades, a member of the Kiowa Nation, former IHS director and currently director, Native American Prevention Research Center, College of Public Health, University of Oklahoma, and adjunct professor of medicine at the University of Oklahoma.

Topics included the responsibility of HHS to consult with tribes on matters affecting them; while NIH still has more to do in terms of meeting the legal implications of consulting with tribes, many ICs have been very aggressive in reaching out to tribal communities regarding Indian health. Health disparities are also a continuing problem for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The speakers contrasted mortality, morbidity and other health status differences between Indians and the general population. The leading cause of death for Indians is heart disease, followed by injury, then cancer.

American Indian and Alaska native contributions to U.S. society have been numerous and significant, ranging from the use and development of herbal medicines, to participation in research studies that led to the development of vaccines for hepatitis B and influenza.

The program included the presentation of award-winning artwork, flute and drum music, and dancing. These emphasized the themes of healing, spirituality, and reverence for nature and for the community.

A number of common misperceptions about

American Indians were dispelled simply, and with good humor:

- "Chief" was never a term of Indian parlance; rather, it was first used by Europeans who came to this country and decided that the feather war bonnets American Indians wore resembled the hats of their European "chiefs."

- Many Indian tribes are matriarchal, with a female designated as the senior decision-maker for the tribe.

- "Winnebago" literally means flat, stagnant water.

- Indian beadwork evolved over time.

Initially, Indians used seeds until they met Europeans and began trading with them to acquire their beads. The primary source of the beads is Czechoslovakia.

To learn more about the program email the NIH American Indian/Alaska Native Employee Council at WebO@od.nih.gov, or call 402-3681.



Eldred Matt (Apache/Blackfeet/Flathead) performs as a Grass Dancer.



NHLBI's Dr. Jared Jobe, a Cherokee, moderated the session and is a member of the American Indian/Alaska Native Employee Council.



Albert "Moontee" Siquah (Hopi/Choctaw) performs a Northern Traditional dance.



Frank Grayshield (Washoe) is the chairperson for AIANEC.



Ho-Chunk performs the hoop dance.

Clayton Old Elk, of the Crow Tribe of Montana, did the opening and closing invocations.



PHOTOS: LEW BASS

NICHD Celebrates 10 Years of Volunteering at School

By Keri-Lyn Wall

NICHD recently was honored by the staff and students of Highland Elementary School in Silver Spring for a 10-year commitment to providing programs that enrich the lives of the school's students.

Through the Partners in Business and Education program, NICHD scientists and administrators have volunteered their time at the school. The partnership is a result of NICHD's equal employment opportunities office's interest in increasing the participation of minorities, women and girls in science. Highland Elementary has a large minority student population, and also was in need of educational resources.



NICHD director Dr. Duane Alexander meets with staff and students at Silver Spring's Highland Elementary School, including (from l) Dorothy Reitz, assistant principal; student Oscar Salazar; Kristen Raymond, a third-grade teacher; student Matthew Downs; and Kitty Hollister, PTA president.

"NICHD is committed to the healthy development of all children," said director Dr. Duane Alexander. "It is important that we support this mission not only through our research initiatives but also through volunteer activities that contribute to the healthy development of children in our own community."

Although NICHD has been leading national research efforts to understand how children learn, and to help them excel academically, institute staff sought to make a more direct impact in their communities.

The partnership began with a scientist/mentor program. NICHD scientists began visiting classrooms several times a year to conduct hands-on science experiments. This school year, there are 16 volunteer scientist mentors who will be visiting classrooms in the kindergarten through fifth grade.

NICHD now participates in several activities at Highland Elementary throughout the school year. One of the most popular initiatives is the pen pal

program. Some 50 NICHD staff are exchanging letters with fourth grade students several times during the year. The program links students with an adult role model and provides an opportunity to enhance their reading and writing skills. At the end of the school year, a lunch is planned for the students to meet their pen pals.

Other programs include a career day and the tutor/study buddy program. For career day, volunteers make a presentation about a career or health topic to a class. Last school year, nearly 30 classrooms were visited by NICHD intramural and extramural staff on career day. The tutor/study program involves volunteers visiting the school to tutor a student once a week for 30 minutes.

The many hours that NICHD staff have volunteered at Highland Elementary have not only benefitted the students, but have also led to the opportunity for the school to receive desperately needed renovations. The 797 volunteer hours that NICHD donated during the 2000-2001 school year were instrumental in allowing the school to qualify for a grant to purchase new carpet and tile for the entire school. ■

NIDDK's Hoofnagle Honored

Dr. Jay Hoofnagle, director of NIDDK's Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, received the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Distinguished Achievement Award on Nov. 12. The award honors individual researchers for their sustained scientific contributions to the field of liver disease. Earlier this year, Hoofnagle received the Gold Medal from the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver for

contributions to liver disease research.



Dr. Jay Hoofnagle

"He's been a pivotal figure in three areas," says NIDDK's Dr. Leonard Seeff, who presented the AASLD award. "He's trained outstanding physicians in the field, he's a leading figure in treating viral hepatitis, and he's been an important figure in supporting research on liver and gastroenterological diseases."

Hoofnagle's findings have provided the scientific underpinnings of now standard treatments for many people infected with hepatitis C. In the 1980s, he and his NIH colleagues began evaluating alpha interferon's antiviral potential in hepatitis B and hepatitis C, then known as non-A, non-B. At the time, few people believed that viral hepatitis could be treated. The pharmaceutical industry became interested when Hoofnagle showed that long-term interferon therapy could control chronic hepatitis C in some patients.

To improve treatments for people with hepatitis, Hoofnagle continues to run clinical trials and organize national and international educational opportunities for those who treat the disease. In 1999, he co-organized an international symposium on hepatitis C and related viruses and NIH workshops on alternative and complementary medicine in chronic liver disease and on hepatitis C in African Americans. ■

CAMPUS SECURITY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

President Franklin Roosevelt spoke from the portico of Bldg. 1. This was just before World War II was about to begin. He talked about military preparedness, but he said the most important thing our nation can do is ensure the health of its people and in that way ensure the welfare of its people. The NIH tradition has always been to support health research and we need to continue doing that.

"We can all agree," he continued, "that the real safety and security begins in our laboratories and in our offices. We depend on you to follow the rules as closely as possible to make sure our labs and offices are safe and to not in any way undercut the activities of NIH as we try to devise security at this time."

Delicate Balance Hard to Achieve

In an overview of security measures here, Steve Ficca, NIH associate director for research services, agreed that people are NIH's most important



Daily inspections of cars entering NIH's main campus have become routine. Such measures are only one signal that security here has been elevated over the last 3 months.

resource and admitted that the task of keeping all of NIH's resources safe has never been more important nor more difficult.

"We use 9/11 as a point of reference," Ficca began. "Our mission has not

changed since that day, but the environment in which we have to carry out that mission has certainly been altered."

Numerous security assessments and recommendations have come across his desk over the years, he said. Before events on Sept. 11, some had been implemented and some had been deemed low priority. Since then, he said, everything has had to be examined with fresh eyes. The strategies in place now are in compliance with the four security alert levels and risk assessments provided to all federal agencies by the U.S. General Services Administration.

"In the beginning we went from a very low level of security to a very high level very quickly," Ficca explained. "Right now we are at level 3 plus."

The purpose and primary objectives, Ficca stressed, are to ensure the safety and security of our most important resource—our people; to safeguard intellectual property—research activities and research data that are irreplaceable and which represent a unique resource to this country; to preserve the NIH reputation for being the world's leading biomedical research institution; and to minimize the vulnerability of NIH's facilities.

During the overview, Ficca addressed two categories of threats: perceived and real. Given the visibility and importance of NIH research, he said, it would be unwise not to consider the possibility that

the agency could be a target for terrorism. Citing animal rights protests and AIDS activism events that required unusual safety measures, Ficca recalled that NIH has contended with potentially harmful actions in the past. Besides those who may not agree with the research NIH conducts, or the way it is conducted, he said, there is also the possibility that miscreants could view NIH as a source for materials to be used harmfully in terrorism elsewhere in the country.

"These are perceived threats," Ficca said, "but in reality we have an outstanding biosafety program" in place to secure research and related materials.

Real threats do exist, he continued, according to information provided to him by intelligence agencies. In addition, security is threatened by crimes such as petty thefts "and other ongoing criminal activity not atypical of a small city, which we are."

Ficca also outlined several constraints to planning NIH's security, including limited resources. So far, NIH has not been provided with additional funds to pay for added security, he noted. Resources on every front have been strained, Ficca pointed out, noting, for example, that the 50-officer NIH police force has been working 12-hour shifts 6 days a week since 9/11 and that they will require a rest soon. Other problems in devising safety procedures so far include the need for clarity of the rules and fairness in their execution across all of NIH, he said.

"This has caused some inconvenience, no doubt about it," Ficca acknowledged. "Our initial response was very awkward, but we've tried to improve as time goes on, and we're still trying to improve."

Audience Members Respond

Many of the measures taken to ensure NIH's security have been debated by employees among themselves, but the town meeting gave attendees an opportunity to air grievances and share ideas publicly with NIH security and policy officials. It was during the feedback portion of the meeting, which ran nearly an hour past its scheduled 60 minutes, that emotions ran particularly high. Comments from the audience ranged from a researcher who suggested that no additional security at all is warranted on campus, to an R&W worker who wants vendor sales and other extracurricular activities to resume, to an employee who requested that shuttle buses stop at Metrobus stops within campus now that bus traffic has been limited to one campus shuttle. Many also remarked on the inconsistency of security checks at different buildings, or at different parts of the same building. Ficca responded that officials are aware of such inconsistencies and are continuing to fine-tune procedures.

"I totally and thoroughly disagree with everything that has been done since Sept. 11," remarked a

scientist who said he has worked at NIH for 18 years. "I do not understand the reason for it. It's not been made clear to me at all. Has there ever been a credible threat to NIH? Every day I go through this indignity of having to prove who I am. In other words, we're all guilty until we can show our innocence, turning American jurisprudence on its head.

"I want the jersey barriers gone," he continued. "I want life back to normal. President Bush said we should get back to normal. This is not normal what's going on here. We've been turned into some sort of fort. It's wrong. It's not the American way."

Ficca responded that security procedures were not being undertaken capriciously, and that NIH must continue to be guided by alerts from GSA, HHS and other information it receives from intelligence sources.

To respond to questions, a panel was formed consisting of Gottesman; NIH Police Chief Al Hinton; Dr. Robert McKinney, director of NIH's Division of Safety; Stella Serras-Fiotes, director of the Office of Facilities Planning; and Leonard Taylor, ORS deputy director. Queries included:

- ◆ Whether the Clinical Center gym would reopen after business hours for employee use ("We don't have the manpower to monitor each activity, and mission-based activities are given priority," replied Taylor. "We want to be able to return many of these activities, and we are constantly reevaluating which ones we can resume.");

- ◆ What can be done to improve the performance of contract security workers ("We agree that some have not been performing up to our standards," Hinton said, "but we are training them as quickly as we can, and we have already let several go."); and

- ◆ Why all incoming mail is not irradiated ("The technology to improve mail handling is still under investigation," Ficca said. "Irradiation is not a cure-all and is not without complications in itself, so we have to weigh the benefits against the risks. NIH mail facilities have all been tested for possible anthrax contamination and we have been cleared. We have been in contact with security officials at UPS and FedEx. Right now they are manually inspecting and looking for suspicious packages, but mainly they are relying on chain of custody—confirming who sent and handled mail before it was delivered to us").

Several respondents reiterated that they were offended that NIH employees are being searched and suspected without just cause. Hinton pointed out that such searches have led to weapons and other contraband being found and confiscated, and while screenings are not 100 percent effective, they are conducted to reduce the possibility of danger.

Foreseeing the outcries of discontent among employees—and having fielded similar sentiments via phone calls and emails—Gottesman had summed

up the feedback at the outset of the meeting:

"Given a community as diverse and as intellectually challenging as NIH," he noted, "it's no surprise that people have diverse feelings and opinions about what's going on."

What the Future Holds

To address problems of access by employees to all campus buildings and to identify visitors better, a perimeter fence for the main campus is planned. In conjunction with the fence, a central visitors center is being proposed, which would relocate the Visitor Information Center (currently residing in the B1 atrium of Bldg. 10) to the perimeter of campus. Ficca said the proposal suggests that all of the nearly 5,000 daily visitors to campus be welcomed through this central facility before proceeding to their various campus destinations.

"Every security study has made the fence the highest priority of all to allow more efficient access to the campus," he said.

Similarly, Ficca continued, security planners are considering creation of a central clearing and inspection center for deliveries. Such a center would permit careful screening of all incoming materials before wider distribution to campus buildings.

"Central receiving at the individual buildings is certainly possible," he said, "but it would require a tremendous amount of support and cooperation from building occupants as well as our vendor community."

Also on the horizon is a new proximity-card access system that will replace the current cardkey process by June. Already in place are guidelines for the use of campus facilities for special events; soon, Ficca said, a broader collection of standard operating procedures will be developed and available to help employees who coordinate large-capacity meetings and functions at NIH.

"We have to be sure that what we're doing is in fact directly addressing the goals we're trying to achieve," Ficca concluded. "One way of doing that is to involve the people we're trying to protect... The goal in all of this is to achieve the security without hindering the mission. The atmosphere of openness and collegiality of the campus has always been a hallmark of NIH, and we certainly are striving to maintain that as much as possible without compromising the safety issues. That is our challenge in the future."

More town meetings were held later at Lipsett Amphitheater and other off-campus NIH sites in an effort to reach all employees. In addition a web site, <http://security.nih.gov>, has been established to communicate the most current information, and any policy changes to staff. ■



Jersey barriers are a familiar addition to the campus's landscape now, but many may be replaced by a perimeter fence, which has been cited as the number one item on NIH's security wish list.

CHICK LEASURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thing more dignified when I grew up, but eventually I gave up on that."

Leasure grew up in Northwest Washington, in the heart of a richly interconnected Irish Catholic community that he is frankly delighted to return to after having spent 14 years in North Carolina, where he was executive officer for NIEHS. He was educated in parochial school, and graduated in 1956 from Georgetown Prep, an institution neighboring NIH on Rockville Pike where Leasure sent three sons, and remains an active alumnus. He went on to graduate with a degree in political science from Georgetown University, then found himself at loose ends.

He had eloped at 19, so he was a married college graduate in search of a career. "I started law school at night, but midway through my first year I got drafted into the Navy." After serving his hitch, he took the Civil Service exam, after which NIH contacted him about a position in September 1965.

"My first office was right below where I'm sitting now (in Bldg. 1, Rm. 102)," he said. "If I fell through the floor, I'd be in my old office." His first job was as an employee relations assistant for NIH's central personnel office. Leasure said he took the NIH job thinking it would give him time to decide on returning to law school, "but I never did."

After a year there, he became an administrative assistant in the National Cancer Institute, the precursor to an administrative officer position, to which he later rose in NCI's Division of Cancer Treatment.

In 1974, he was named executive officer at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a job he held for 10 years. In 1984, he moved his family to North Carolina when he became executive officer for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The Leasures lived on the leafy edges of the University of North Carolina campus in Chapel Hill. Leasure's wife and two of their sons earned degrees at UNC, and the university still holds a place in his heart. He was once, in jest, given an honorary degree in "molecular management" from the "Virtual University of North Carolina."

The Leasures remained Tar Heels until 1998, when Chick was tapped to become executive officer at the National Human Genome Research Institute, which brought him back to his old stomping grounds. He was at NHGRI for all the fireworks surrounding the monumental success of the Human Genome Project, and late this past summer was asked to move over to Bldg. 1 to become one of four NIH deputy directors.

Not only that, Leasure has, since last January, been acting executive officer for the Office of the Director, a post formerly held by Fred Walker, and which will soon be filled permanently, much to Leasure's relief.

As 2001 winds down, Leasure actually wears three

hats: deputy director for management, acting OD executive officer, and NIH's chief financial officer.

Looking back on a long NIH career, he has only happy memories. "NIEHS was a great place, and a great experience for me," he says. "And it was fantastic to be part of the Human Genome Project; I was happy to be around for that. I've been very lucky [that my career] has worked out so well. NIH has been a good place for me. It's been a privilege to work with people who are not only tops in their fields scientifically, but who are also great people. I'm proud that they're leading the biomedical research effort in the United States. I have worked for a number of institute directors, and they've all been great."

Leasure is also grateful for a homecoming that returns him not only to his social roots—he says he still hangs out with friends made in grade school at Blessed Sacrament parish—but also to cultural ones: he is a big fan of country and bluegrass music, and attends festivals in music-rich metropolitan Washington whenever he can. "I can't play music and I can't sing though," he laments. "My wife laughs every time I try."

As NIH embarks on a major reevaluation of the way it conducts its business, Leasure says he is challenged to "take things that make sense for one part of the department and apply them to NIH" in a restructuring effort. He will be guided, he says, by principles learned from football coaches at Prep, and from the Navy: "Those were the best management experiences I ever had—I learned to be dependable, and to work with other people.

"You know, I've only had three jobs in my life: parent, coach and manager. And in each role, you need to be able to tell people what to do, show them how to do it, and make them want to do it—they're all variations on a theme."

Back in 1966, as a young NCI administrator, Leasure had a memorable boss who told him he was in charge of three things: money, men and material. Leasure says only the nomenclature is different today: "Now it's funds, folks and facilities."

By whatever name, no one knows those worlds at NIH better than Chick Leasure. ■

Postpartum Depression Study

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking volunteer mothers ages 18-40 who have had one or more past episodes of postpartum depression following a full-term pregnancy, but are not currently depressed. Participants must be free of medical illnesses, medication-free and currently not breastfeeding. Volunteers may be asked to participate in a 6-month protocol investigating the effects of hormones on brain and behavior. All who complete the study will be paid. For more information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. ■

'Phases' Series Begins New Year

The Work and Family Life Center's "Faces and Phases of Life" seminar series resumes in January with "Finding a Job That Is a Good Fit for You," on Tuesday, Jan. 8, noon - 2 p.m., Bldg. 31, Rm. 6C6. Preregister by calling WFLC, 435-1619. For more information about the series, including full schedule and workshop descriptions and how to "tune in" if you can't attend in person, visit <http://wflc.od.nih.gov>. Sign-language interpretation is provided, unless otherwise indicated.

NINDS' Miers Retires After 34 Years of Government Service

By Shannon E. Garnett

Mary L. Miers, chief of the NINDS Science Policy and Analysis Branch, recently retired from the federal government after 34 years of service, 31 with NIH. "I'll miss the mission, the accomplishments, and the wonderful people I have worked with. Not to mention the two-mile commute," she said.

Miers' interest in science began at an early age and continued well into her college years. In fact, upon entering Cornell University she had planned to major in zoology and to pursue a research career. However, at the suggestion of a faculty advisor she took a semester off from science and began to study government, drawing on her passion for politics. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in government from Cornell in 1966 and her master's degree in comparative government a year later from the University of California, Los Angeles. In 1967, just out of college, she accepted a position as a management intern at the Internal Revenue Service. After completing the internship she became an employee development specialist with the organization.

"I had no idea that federal agencies had work that would relate to my academic training," said Miers. "One day my husband John [then a management intern at NIH] came home and said, 'Have I got a job for you!' It was a wonderful combination of my interest in science and politics. All my work at NIH has involved science and politics, with the ratio shifting from time to time."

She left the IRS in 1970 to join NIH as a program analyst and, later, chief of the Legislative Liaison and Analysis Branch of the Division of Legislative Affairs in the Office of the Director. Miers left that post in 1979 to become a program analyst and, later, institutional liaison in the Office of Extramural Research, also in the OD, NIH. There she published the *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts*—a weekly summary of NIH policies and program initiatives.

In 1987 she accepted the position of chief of the Legislation and Analysis Branch (now the Science Policy and Analysis Branch), NINDS, where she was involved in the strategic planning process and preparation of the institute's budget requests.

Though Miers has retired from government service, she is continuing her career as an assistant dean for planning in the health sciences division at Columbia University in New York. In this role she will work closely with Dr. Gerald Fischbach, now vice president of health and biomedical sciences and dean of the faculty of medicine and of the faculty of health



Mary L. Miers

sciences at Columbia, who spearheaded the first strategic plan for NINDS.

"Although my work at NIH has never been dull, after 31 years there wasn't much I hadn't seen or done before, and no other agency has inspired the interest and passion that drew me to NIH. Columbia offers much of the same excitement of the research environment along with a complex and important mission that I feel I can really sink my teeth into," she said.

While her career is now based in New York, her home remains in Bethesda, as does her husband, John Miers, who serves as director of NIMH's Office of Diversity and Employee Advocacy Programs. Mary is maintaining a challenging balance of telecommuting and train travel between Bethesda and New York. She continues to honor her commitments at home—singing in her church choir and heading her church's flower guild, as well as her recent commitment to physical fitness, which she carries out at NIH's fitness center in Bldg. 31.

"The reason my job continued to be the best of its kind at NIH, in the face of many challenges, has been the superb staff of the Science Policy and Analysis Branch," Miers concluded. "This is an extraordinary group of talented and committed people. Individually, each of them shines, and they make up a formidable and collaborative team. I miss them already." ■

CIT Computer Classes

All courses are on the NIH campus and are given without charge. For more information call 594-6248 or consult the training program's home page at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

Designing Effective Scientific Slides	12/13
Budget Tracking	12/13
Data Warehouse <i>Analyze</i> : Budget & Finance	12/13
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 2000 for the PC	12/14, 1/9
Data Warehouse <i>Query</i> : Human Resources Fellowship Payment	12/17
mAdb Basic Informatics	12/18
An Introduction to TCP/IP	12/18
Data Warehouse <i>Query</i> : Travel	12/18
PowerPoint Topics: Graphs, Links and More	12/18
Microsoft Visual Studio.Net	12/19
Oracle SQL Plus	12/19
Data Warehouse <i>Query</i> : Staff Training & Development	12/19
Introduction to HTML	12/20
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 2001 for the Mac	1/3
Hands-On EndNote 5 for Windows	1/7
Java GUI Programming	1/8
WIG - World Wide Web Interest Group	1/8
Making Movies of Molecules	1/9
Creating Composite Images with Photoshop	1/11
Elementary S-Plus	1/11

Perception Study Needs Volunteers

The Uniformed Services University department of medical and clinical psychology needs healthy male and female volunteers, ages 18-80, to participate in a 2-hour study of perception. Payment is \$30. Call (301) 295-9679 to volunteer.

After 28 Years, Giacometti Says So Long

By Don Luckett

After 28 years at NIH, Dr. Luigi Giacometti has decided to retire from the Center for Scientific Review. He began and ended a 24-year career as a scientific review administrator for the visual sciences A study section, though he was the SRA for several other study sections and special emphasis panels over the years.

His decision to retire certainly wasn't the toughest one he has made. When Giacometti was 17 years old living in Italy, he faced a big dilemma. It was 1944 and his country was seized by war. Boys in his village in Umbria were disappearing daily. Nazis were taking them to war factories in Germany, and a resurgent group of Italian fascists was forcing them into their doomed army. Giacometti knew he could be next if he didn't do something. He thus joined his older brother in the nearby mountains. There they joined a group of guerrilla fighters, which captured 20-25 Nazis soldiers and turned them over to British forces. Giacometti then became a messenger, carrying critical information between resistance and British forces. He and his family miraculously survived the war, and Giacometti was able to return to school. In 1956, he graduated from the Università degli Studi of Rome with a degree in biology.

Giacometti soon came to the United States and became the chief of the perinatal laboratory at the Providence Lying-In Hospital in Rhode Island. In 1960, he became a PHS predoctoral fellow and enrolled in the graduate program at Brown University, where he earned a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in biology.

After receiving his doctorate in 1964, he spent 5 years as a scientist at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center in Beaverton. His research focused on the structure and function of skin in humans and nonhuman primates. He was noted for his studies of Langerhans cells in the skin. These cells were thought to be lifeless until he demonstrated that they were living cells. Giacometti also conducted innovative research on skin from Egyptian mummies, identifying for the first time the remnants of red blood cells in ancient tissue samples.

In 1969, he became an associate professor of the division of dermatology at the University of Oregon Medical School and scientific director of the Oregon Zoology Research Center. In addition to his skin research, he coordinated research devoted to developing animal models for human diseases and conserving wild animal species. Between 1968 and 1972, he was also the honorary Italian vice-consul in Portland, Ore.

Giacometti came to NIH in 1972 through the Grants Associates Program. From 1973 to 1977, he was director of the Extramural Corneal Disease and Cataract Program at the National Eye Institute. In

1977, he took charge of the visual sciences A study section at the Division of Research Grants, which is now CSR. Dr. Carole Jelsema, chief of the molecular, cellular and developmental neurosciences integrated review group, recently looked back on Giacometti's career. "His historical perspectives as well as his gentlemanly and scholarly ways will be sorely missed," she said. Indeed, at his last study section meeting this past July, he received numerous tributes from both reviewers and NIH staff.

Many at NIH will remember Giacometti from courses they took at the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences. For nearly 28 years, he taught courses in Italian and Italian art. He has also authored several books and articles on various topics from religion and politics to art and science. Jelsema noted that "in this era of specialization, Dr. Giacometti is truly one of the few remaining 'Renaissance men,' and CSR has been the richer for his presence and his contributions."

Retirement gives Giacometti many choices. He may travel to Italy, enjoy the company of his two daughters, or work on one of many writing projects. He has an abiding interest in history, and he may further pursue his particular interests in the history of Christianity and medicine. ■



Long before his 28-year NIH career, a 17-year-old Luigi Giacometti (kneeling, r) and a band of his friends were caught up in World War II as members of the Italian resistance movement.

NIDCR Video Wins 'Freddie' Award

NIDCR's videotape "Science Knows No Country" recently won a "Freddie" award from Time Inc. Health, which honored the video with a first prize—the Freddie—in the category of Dentistry for its 2001 International Health & Medical Media Awards. Working with filmmaker Mona Kanin, the NIDCR Office of International Health produced the videotape to highlight the institute's global research agenda.

The principal purpose of the film is to show the importance of international collaborative oral health research, and to communicate that NIDCR supports not only U.S. researchers, but also desires to fund the best research anywhere in the world. To illustrate the value of international collaborative research, the video focuses on two institute efforts: a research program in Africa looking at noma, a form of gangrene that attacks the face, and a cleft lip-cleft palate study in the Philippines. "Science Knows No Country" is dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. David Barmes, one of the video's featured researchers, who served as special expert for international health at NIDCR.

NIDDK's Foster Retires After 18 Years

Dr. Willis R. Foster, senior staff physician in the Office of Scientific Program and Policy Analysis (OSPPA), has retired from NIDDK after 18 years of service. During his tenure, Bill, as he was known to friends and colleagues, played a quiet but essential role in NIDDK.

Over the years, he represented NIDDK on NIH committees dedicated to disease prevention, technology assessment, technology transfer and others. He brought to this work an impressive ability to find and analyze prodigious amounts of information, according to his friend and closest colleague, NIDDK scientist emeritus Dr.



Dr. Willis R. Foster

Benjamin Burton. "He had a fabulous ability to retrieve things from the literature. Whenever you had a strange disease or a bacterium, it couldn't hide from Bill," Burton said. "His research and analytical skills resulted in comprehensive annual reports on disease prevention, orphan diseases and on the genetics of rare diseases, but he served NIDDK in myriad ways, penning parts of the NIH director's biennial report, editing the first Surgeon General's Report on Nutrition and Health, and editing the first Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health, conducting extensive literature searches and analyses on human obesity. He summarized and reported on NIDDK's clinical trials for development of the NIH-wide system of clinical trial reporting, and supported the trans-NIH revision of CRISP/IMPAC, now known as IMPAC II."

In 1987, Foster received the NIH Merit Award, and then, in 1995, the NIH Director's Award for his contributions to biomedical assessment and disease prevention. In 1999, he again received the NIH Director's Award for "extraordinary leadership in developing the nation's health objectives (Healthy People 2000 and 2010)." He received a Special Achievement award from NIDDK in 1996 in recognition of his innovative design and production of special projects, many of which he presented to the NIDDK council. "As a physician, Dr. Foster brought special strengths to the NIDDK because of his perspective on clinical research issues and on the medical literature," said OSPPA Director Carol Feld.

Foster did all these things in an office surrounded by pyramids of paper. "He was famous for never having thrown out a piece of paper if it had a word on it," said Burton. "But he could also find anything you asked for—within minutes." Foster was a coauthor with Burton on the most recent edition of *Human Nutrition*, a textbook. Over the years, he reviewed manuscripts for the *Annals of Internal*

Medicine, and was considered within the top 10 percent of reviewers nationwide.

A native of New Orleans, Foster did undergraduate work in psychology at Louisiana State University, and graduate work in clinical psychology at the University of North Carolina. He subsequently got a master's degree in biochemistry and his M.D. at LSU Medical School in 1957. A fellowship at Johns Hopkins and a stint as research associate at George Washington University brought him to the Washington area. He then worked for the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange, rising eventually to vice-president. He also was the first director of the Current Cancer Research Project Analysis Center of NCI, under an interagency transfer of funds.

Before coming to NIH in 1983, Foster was president of Advanced Concepts for Development, a nonprofit consulting firm. Appointed a special expert to the institute then known as NIADDK, he first worked in the Office of Disease Prevention and Technology Transfer with Burton, then eventually took up multiple administrative tasks full-time in the science policy office. "The sound knowledge and advice he brought to bear on a variety of analyses have benefited many in the NIDDK and throughout the NIH. His scholarship, dedication, and collegiality are well recognized, and will be greatly missed," said Feld. ■

STEP Session on NIH, Profit Links

The staff training in extramural programs (STEP) office will hold an Administrative Strategies Forum titled, "Academia, NIH and the Profit Motive: Whose Business Is It?" on Thursday, Jan. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A.

Have you been surprised to find out that your most productive research PI now heads his own small business? The line between academia and profit-oriented enterprise is now disappearing as the NIH mission to help bring new treatments to the market makes NIH a business partner and investor. NIH staff needs to provide appropriate information to applicants and ensure that potentially important results are not held prisoner to profit motives.

The forum will present speakers from NIH offices, academia and industry to discuss questions relevant to those who manage funding mechanisms that encourage technology transfer and small business development. The questions will include: What do I need to tell investigators before they apply? What laws/regulations affect the proposed research? What do I need to do to avoid problems later? How do I deal with overlap between academic and for-profit efforts? When am I in conflict?

Diabetic Volunteers Needed

Seeking diabetic volunteers ages 18-65 on oral diabetic medications for screening of vitamin C blood level. Must be off vitamin C supplements. Payment is provided for blood level determination. Possible eligibility for further studies depends on vitamin C level. Contact Gail Sullivan at 496-3244.